Amendment of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1992

554. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of proposals given by CBI, his Ministry is proposing to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1992, to strengthen it further against poaching;

(b) whether the proposals have been gone through by the Task Force set up; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended in 2003, making it more stringent for preventing wildlife crimes in the country. No further amendment to strengthen the Act against poaching is contemplated.

(b) and (c) The report of the Task Force constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country has not been received so far.

Permission to Monsanto-Mahyco for seed production

555. SHRI. R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has granted permission to MONSANTO-MAHYCO for seed production and large scale field trials of various varieties of hybrid cotton in South and Central Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that permission was given for commercial release of Bt. Cotton Hybrids; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has accorded approval to